THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No irrigation project of Tamil Nadu is presently pending for action, with Planning Commission. However, one medium scheme, viz. modernisation of Ananthanar Channel is awaiting action from State Government, for clearance from Planning Commission.

(b) It was received in the Planning Commission for clearance on 14th May, 1986.

(c) and (d) The project has been techno-economically found viable by the Advisory Committee of the Planning Commission, subject to certain conditions. The State Government has been requested for early compliance of these conditions. The project would be cleared immediately on getting the necessary compliance report.

समानान्तर डाक सेवाएं

*259. **श्री राधा किशन मालवीय :** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कुछ गैर-सरकारी संगठनों एवं व्यक्तियों द्वारा देश में समानान्तर डाक सेवायें चलायी जा रही हैं ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार ने इन सेवाओं को रोकने के लिये क्या कदम उठाये हैं ?

संचार मंत्री (श्री अर्जुन सिंह) : (क) कुछ निजी संगठनों/व्यक्तियों द्वारा समानान्तर डाक सेवायें चलाये जाने के मामले विभाग की जानकारी में आये हैं।

(ख) प्राइवेट एजेंसियों द्वारा पत्रों को लाना-ले जाना भारतीय डाक घर अधिनियम की धारा 4 का उल्लघंन करना है। जब कभी उपर्युक्त धारा के उल्लघंन की बात ध्यान में आती है, तो भारतीय डाकघर नियम की व्यवस्थाओं के तहत आवश्यक कार्रवाई की जाती है। भारतीय डाकघर (संशोधन) विधेयक, 1986 में निवारक उपाय के बतौर कठोर दंड देने का प्रस्ताव किया गया है।

Maintenance of Srinagar Leh Highway

*260. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plans have been formulated to put the Srinagar Leh highway in working condition; and

(b) what incentives are being provided to the personnel of Border Roads Organisation and the drivers of the Army Service Corps for continued maintenance of the road?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) Srinagar-Leh road is in traffic-worthy condition. However, some sectors on this road remain closed to traffic during winter due to heavy snow-fall.

(b) Personnel of Border Roads Organisation are provided with the following facilities, free of charge:—

(1) ration,

(2) single accommodation,

(3) clothing,

(4) Medical treatment,

(5) Special Compensatory allowance at specified rates in specified areas;

(6) airlift in IAC flights from Leh to Chandigarh, while proceeding on and returning from leave, during winter months.

They are also eligible for meritorious service gallantry awards.

Drivers of Army Service Corps are not involved in the maintenance of roads.